

Appln No. 10/760196
Amdt. Dated: October 11, 2006
Response to Office Action of August 16, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 102(a) as being anticipated by Martinez-Pacheco. Whilst the Applicant strongly disagrees, the Examiner's refusal to construe the present claim language and citation appropriately has forced the Applicant to amend claim 1 in order to avoid the Examiner's absurd interpretation. Specifically, the term "to direct air from the air inlet over the printhead" has been amended to "to direct air from the air inlet onto said surface of the printhead" to avoid the Examiner's construction of Figure 3 of the citation, which seemed more based on the orientation of the page on which Figure 3 was printed as it does on the well established principles of construction of patent documents. Claim 1 further defines that the printhead has a surface facing a print-expulsion direction, this being the surface onto which the air is directed.

In Martinez-Pacheco, the surface of the printhead 103 that faces in the print expulsion direction is the surface that points downwardly in Figure 3. Clearly, Martinez-Pacheco does not teach that air is directed onto this surface. Any air direction that Martinez-Pacheco does teach is out of the conduit 113 which is clearly in a direction away from the defined surface of the printhead. In light of this amendment, the Applicant considers that claim 1 and its dependent claims are novel and inventive over Martinez-Pacheco.

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If the Examiner considers that a further adverse Office Action is necessary, then the Applicant respectfully requests that such an Office Action is issued under the close guidance of the Examiner's supervisor.

Very respectfully,

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